ULTRAS HAPOEL 99 – GATE 9 – UNITED WE STAND



At first it was a simple chat in the internet.

Our ideologies and deepest emotions were not simply similar, but identical. 'Doomed' to follow our clubs were ever they may go, both at home and away, and always on a constant fight against racism, fascism and social prejudice. Against all that make people forget of human rights. It was apparent that what connected us was far stronger and bigger than any could imagine.

The summer of 2007 is an important landmark which holds a special place in our hearts. It is the year in which Gate 9 makes the first step and travels to Israel, to meet our comrades and brothers to become, Ultras Hapoel. This article will present our fellow-comrades, their group, their ideals, and their history. Finally, it will present with the official declaration of Gate 9 and Ultras Hapoel.

Ultras Hapoel were created in difficult times for the club, when the basketball division was going from bad to worse after chained wrong decisions from the board of the team. Since in Israel, basketball holds a very significant part of a clubs pride, the decision was final. The creation of a fanatical group to support and follow the team wherever it would go was a fact, and this group was first named 'The Creatures'.

With the passage of time this group was re-named under 'Red Militia' a name taken from the Italian Revolution. Within the season of 2001-2002, when the organized trips begun, the group traveled to several destinations within Europe, and got accustomed with the Ultra Mentality. This mentality suited the group better; therefore the name was changed into its final form, Ultras Hapoel.

The Ultras Hapoel are part of the ANTIFA movement, a movement created as a reaction to the two main enemies of football, but furthermore society as a whole; Racism, and fascism. As a group of organized fans Ultras Hapoel care for all problems which taunt our society, and are on a constant fight against everything that is 'rotten' within the world we live in.

The group sees Ultra Mentality as 100% devotion towards the club, its colors, its emblem, and most importantly its history; a vow to follow the team in good and difficult times, both in the country and abroad. Ultras Hapoel though are also committed to help and offer to people whom life did not treat fairly.

Ultras Hapoel do not limit in words and have a very significant social struggle to reveal. Just a view on the actions the group carried out within the past few years can persuade anyone as to the purity and humane face our brothers have. Recently, the state of Sudan showed racist behavior towards people of Arabic origin, something which forced those people to come to Israel. No one cared for these people, and even further, the Israeli government showed its inhumane side on a huge manner. The government seeks for these people and jails them, or furthermore deports them. From the very first moment, Ultras Hapoel organized a number of fans to help and support the people chased from Sudan. They offered clothing, shelter, food and much more.

Another example is the team Sachnin which originates from the Sachnin city in Israel which is a town with people of Arabic origin. Although the team plays in the first division of Israel, against Hapoel, the UH offer them big help since the team

and its people are often the centre of racial prejudice and racism, from a huge mass of Israel. The UH helped the fans of the team to organize, and with their experience had a significant part into the Sachnin fans creating a respectable group in order to fight against the miss-treatment they receive from a mass of Israeli people. In a match between the two teams, the fans formed a common choreography on the stands, which aimed against racism.

The Ultras Hapoel are individuals with many sensitivities, especially towards people who have any form of disability. The UH made a suggestion and proposal to the club for the formation of a stand specially created to accommodate people with disabilities, and furthermore helped to the creation of the stand. Now, Gate 5 of the stadium is home for the disabled fans of the team something for which our brothers and comrades are very proud of.

Comrades and brothers in heart and in action

GATE 9 and ULTRAS HAPOEL as the organized supporters of OMONIA Nicosia and HAPOEL Tel-Aviv, two working class teams, have decided to reinforce our relationships. The purpose of these bonds is our common effort to guarantee our rights as organized fans and fans in general and respect to the fans. We are fans, we are not criminals. In the framework of those bonds, we will exchange visits, we will inform each other and we will co-operate upon subjects that deal with fan issues and also other social activities.

As the organized followers of two people's sports clubs we share our:

- Belief and struggle against racism including sport activities. We believe that language, colour and race mean nothing. All people are equal.
- Belief in the fight against fascism, neonazism, religious fanaticism and nationalism-chauvinism. Our antifascist struggle against these sick fabricated so-called ideologies is common.
- Belief in favour of the struggle of the working people and the people's movements around the globe against exploitation and imperialism for democracy, freedom, peace and social justice.

Based on the aforementioned common principles, we support the end of the occupation in Cyprus and Palestine. We support a reunited bizonal, bicommunal federate Cyprus, common homeland of all Cypriots. We support an independent Palestine so that the people of Israel and Palestine live peacefully as brothers-neighbours contributing in the creation of a peaceful Middle East.

We, declare that GATE 9 and ULTRAS HAPOEL are from now and on comrades and brothers, in heart and in action.

Nicosia, 27 October 2008



